

# Output of Hard Coal Is Short 41 Million Tons

Five Years' Steady Operation Will Be Required to Eliminate the Deficit Caused by 5-Month Strike

## Work Still Is Hindered

**Smaller Walk-Outs Continue; 10,000 Men to Quit Monday in Pittston Mines**

Fall of the anthracite mines to make up any appreciable part of the deficit is still short since mining has been almost three months ago is indicated in the figures on hard coal produced announced by the United States Geological Survey for the week ended November 25. The report shows that up to date of its issuance 45,000,000 tons of anthracite were produced this year, as against 84,000,000 tons for the period in 1921, making a deficit of 40,000,000 tons from the 1921 production. On September 11, when mining was resumed following the settlement of the five-months' coal strike, the deficit amounted to 42,500,000 tons. That is, it had taken two and one-half tons, a rate which will require ready operation of the anthracite properties for more than five years to make up the deficit caused by the strike.

Much of this gain was made in the month after work was resumed, the miners taking to the pits again to work after their long lay off.

At that time, the figures show, production has been seriously curtailed by several reasons. Sporadic strikes of individual mines have been frequent and have done much to cut down production. Some mining was resumed more than fifteen days affecting anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand miners cutting down the weekly output many thousand tons.

Another Walk-Out Scheduled

The largest of these strikes has been planned for Monday, when it is expected 10,000 men employed in the Pittston area will leave the pits again to bring about a resumption of work.

Several miners officials have demanded what is known as a "checkboard" shake-up, or a general shifting of the foremen, in order that each gang will have a new boss.

The mines affected in the strike are those in the hard coal region where the miners were not members of the United Mine Workers. The men are organized in the strike of 1920 and since then have become the strongest element in the union ranks. Their leader, Cappelino, has made a good deal of trouble with the officials of the union on several occasions, and with his followers he has moved to prevent the organization of the miners, which ended the strike in September.

Unless the strike is thwarted by the quick return of 10,000 miners to the pits, there will be a loss of about 100,000 tons per week.

Just how much coal production has been lost by the numerous smaller strikes cannot be computed. It is safe to assume, however, that the failure to make up the huge deficit or any substantial part of it is traceable to this cause, for the most part. The men have lost, in most instances, on what is known in the anthracite region as a "button strike," and have returned to work after three or four days with the "buttons" restored to incomplete.

Although restrained by law from returning to the pits, the men refusing to work as miners put it, does not wear a button. Buttons are changed upon payment of union dues, on a "button day," when all of the men must have the new button. Those miners without the button strike is called and continues, usually, until he has put himself in good standing once more. Many of the mine superintendents will discharge a workman or company if he pays his dues rather than have their mines closed down by a strike.

Holidays Cut Production.

The holidays in the section of the region around Shamokin also have been producing and in around 100,000 tons of the larger collieries have been forced to suspend by the Federal mine law prohibiting operation under the city.

These various causes have resulted in 40,000,000 tons short being made up at a rate of less than 10,000 tons a week and have made it extremely difficult to get even emergency quantities of domestic size anthracite into New York. The difficulties added to by the shutting down of the mines on Election Day and Armistice Day, cutting production an additional 20,000 tons, and a further loss of 20,000 tons for Thanksgiving Day.

The operating module in the anthracite field calls for a minimum of 55,000,000 tons for the year ending December 31, which is 54,000,000 tons or about 10 per cent short of last year's production. In order to keep up to 100 per cent schedule of production some must now turn out and load more than 2,000,000 tons a week—an amount they have not maintained even during the holidays to curtail production.

World Compel Wheat Sales

LETHBRIDGE, Alberta, Nov. 30.—A resolution favoring a compulsory board to market Western grain, along with the 1923 crop, was passed by the Federal Constituency Association of the United Farmers' movement to-night, officers an-

Canadian Customs Revenue Up

OTTAWA, Ont., Nov. 30.—Customs revenue received by the government in November were \$6,741,733.03. Total collections amounted to \$12,000,000. During the eight-month period November 30, total imports were \$12,000,000,179.40, as against \$14,253,302.05 during the corresponding period of 1921.

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